APX Installs Isidorus Chapter

Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

The Isidorus Chapter was formally installed on April 30, 2011. Arriving that morning with 29 members, Isidorus matched the size of Apollodorus Chapter’s 1986 record installation class. Fortunately, Isidorus did not need to endure Apollodorus’ 13-hour bus trip, it was only a 45-minute drive for the carpools from Oxford to reach Rabirius Chapter in Cincinnati.

The colony’s petition to establish Isidorus Chapter was accepted at the APX National Convention in March. Given their deliberate speed in meeting their colonization, it should not have been surprising the colony would suggest an installation date only one month later. Planning for the record-sized class immediately went into high gear. Although a conflicting workshop at Anthemios would mean she would not be able to attend the event, Grand Lecturer Laura Schmidt coordinated the daunting logistics with conference calls and an shared online spreadsheet. In the weeks leading up to the installation, floor plans and flow diagrams helped make sure it would all come together.

It was a complex operation. The entire Rabirius chapter house was dedicated to the secret work, with multiple parts taking place simultaneously on different floors. Three actives from Iktinos brought their chapter’s props to double-up some sets. When not playing their parts, the colonists waited in classrooms in the DAAP building on campus. A constant stream of text messages managed the flow of people between the two buildings.

So much depended on the active participation of the Rabirius Chapter. Not only did they come through for the installation; the chapter also fielded a team for Relay for Life that weekend.

Amazingly, given the number of new brothers and the complex logistics, when WGAA Scott Swanson administered the installation oath and swore in the chapter’s officers around 7:30 pm, it was over an hour ahead of schedule. The remaining time was yielded to a celebration back at the Rabirius chapter house.

Alpha Rho Chi thanks the Iktinos, Anthemios, Rabirius, and Andronicus Alumni Associations as well several individual alumni for sponsoring meals for the colonists and installation team.

About Isidorus

Isidorus of Miletus was a Greek mathematician and architect. A teacher of geometry, Isidorus had written commentaries on vaulting and republished an edition of Archimedes before he collaborated with Anthemios of Tralles on the Church of St. Sophia at Constantinople. After Anthemios’ death around 534, Isidorus completed construction of St. Sophia in 537.

Isidorus Chapter’s cadency mark is an escutcheon, or shield. A stained glass shield bearing Miami University’s monogram appears at the center of the high dome of Alumni Hall, the university’s architecture building. The shield is drawn surrounded by a circle, recalling this dome and by suggestion, the great dome of St. Sophia.

Initial members of Isidorus Chapter at Cincinnati’s DAAP.
Gregory S. Pelley Awarded Alpha Rho Chi Silver Medal

The 64th National Convention honored Greg Pelley with the Alpha Rho Chi Silver Medal, APX’s highest honor for fraternal service. An alumnus of Anthemios Chapter at the University of Illinois, Brother Pelley served on the Grand Council for 11 years, including three terms as Worthy Grand Architect. Since leaving office he has continued to serve Alpha Rho Chi by developing Leadership Conference programs, hosting a retreat for regional directors, and writing articles in *The Archi*.

Bro. Pelley accepted the medal at the Convention’s awards banquet. His remarks touched everyone present and are presented below.

It’s with deep gratitude that I accept this medal from you all. I need to say something more than thanks. Which is right, because thank you is what I say to the kid that bags my groceries. He asks me, “Paper or plastic?” and regardless of what I tell him, he just does whatever he wants anyway.

What’s in my heart now is profoundly beyond thank you. How do I express that?

“Good job”

In January, I was in school in Chicago for intensives. And when I got back home to Des Moines, my wife Caroline said, “You gotta talk to Vicki.” I was like, “Yeah, we haven’t talked in awhile.” She said, “No you gotta talk to her right now.”

It really took a few days of back and forth, and I don’t think we ever really connected. Caroline couldn’t stand it anymore and told me about the nomination. I was overwhelmed. Humbled. Grateful. And I was excited. I told some friends in Des Moines, non-Alpha Rho Chi’s. I told them that I had been nominated for this award, and they did the, “Aw, that’s nice Greg. Good job.” Of course they don’t know what that means; they don’t know Alpha Rho Chi.

A revelation

After one of those conversations, I was driving home and this thought came to me. It was really profound and shocking for me, having spent many years in service with you. I thought I would share this idea with you, and perhaps you’ll be as shocked as I was. Perhaps not. Perhaps you already knew this, but somebody forgot to tell me.

So here’s what I propose: *Alpha Rho Chi does not exist.* Ouch. Because really, outside of this room, outside of the people sitting around these tables, who knows? You go to your chapters, you go to your alumni association meetings, but then there’s the other three hundred million people who say, “Great, nice, that’s great.” So it occurs to me that Alpha Rho Chi doesn’t really exist.

As I was thinking about what I wanted to share with you, I kept going back to the same story. It’s not a great story. It’s not a happy one, at least. I kept rejecting it, but when the Universe keeps sending you the same story, you know, “Greg, you gotta tell them that story. Tell them that story.” You tell them that story.

The story

Back in December, just before Christmas, I was driving the car with Caroline and the girls from Iowa to New York to spend the holidays with Caroline’s family. We had left earlier than planned to get ahead of the coming storm. We took off, driving down I-80; and somewhere in Illinois, we pulled off to get gas and food.

I get into the fast food restaurant, a Wendy’s or something, and do the thing you do when you have a smartphone. You gotta pull it out, and you gotta check your email. So I do that reflexive thing. I’m looking at the list, and one of the emails that I got was from Dave Carbol, an Anthemios alumnus and a very good friend of mine. I was glad, because Dave and I don’t talk a lot, maybe a couple times a year. I figured this was just a nice holiday greeting to speed my way down the road.

It turned out not to be. Dave emailed me and many others informing us about our brother, Anthemios alumnus, Mike Ward. (I’m aware that there’s an Andronican, Mike Ward, he’s perfectly fine.) However, the Mike Ward from Anthemios had died that morning. He had been fighting a brain tumor for several years. We knew it was coming. And my heart broke.

Now, Mike and I weren’t best friends. I was a graduate student at Illinois when he was an undergrad, so we knew each other, of course, through Alpha Rho Chi. Not best friends, but we knew each other. And I knew his wife, Stephanie (also...
My heart was breaking for them. It was before Christmas, and Mike had really been struggling. He was only 36 years old. And my heart just broke. We get in the car, and I’m pretty quiet. Caroline offers to drive; she can tell not all is well with me, but I kept going into the night. And I was thinking about Mike, and I was thinking about Stephanie, and I was thinking about Brian, and Adair... Dave, who emailed me, Steve, Lisa, all these people on this email list.

I started remembering stories from school. Stories of times we’d been together. And each story connected to another story and another person that I hadn’t thought of for a long time. I drove that way for hours. Connecting stories and faces. People in this room. People I hadn’t thought of in ages.

Stories connect us
I realized that these stories are what connected us together. We were connected by stories throughout our time together, that each subsequent year grow richer and richer. As I thought about these stories, about my friends, about my brothers, people in this room here, as I connected everybody together over those hours, I thought, “You know? Wow. Those are my stories. They’re the stories of my life.”

That’s how we form our lives, really. Connect our stories, one to another, until we have our lives formed up. And I think, perhaps, that’s actually what Alpha Rho Chi is. It’s a story. It’s a story that starts with Leo and Chandler, sitting in a hotel room figuring out what this is going to be. Their story connects with the stories of those who come after them.

Eventually, they connect to a story of a man named George. George Higgins was an Anthemos, initiated in April 1935. George Higgins would enter the Army in World War II and go off to Europe, leaving a wife and a young baby boy behind. George would get killed in that war, and his son would be raised without a father. His son would grow up and marry, and from that marriage they would have a child named Caroline. She would grow up and show up one day — the same day that I went to the Anthemos house of Alpha Rho Chi and we would meet.

Then we would get married and have these daughters Sydney and Grace. (They wanted me to make sure I used their names.) The stories that we interconnected, one to another, one to another, until they formed our lives. And I’m thinking about Mike, and knowing that now that he’s gone – and Kim [Clark] and Dana [Habel] – their stories are still with us. And when we’re gone, the stories will continue to connect us to those we haven’t met yet.

Honor is a promise
For me, this medal bears the weight of all those stories. These stories of our lives that have formed together. So if I ask something of you tonight, it’s this. Be gentle with each other. Learn your stories. Connect your stories together. Fiercely defend your stories. It’s what forms us. It’s what forms Alpha Rho Chi. This thing that doesn’t really exist, except that we say it does. Except that our stories exist.

So, How do I express my gratitude? It’s simply this: that I will make sure that the story continues for myself, for you, and for all that come after us. Thank you, my brothers.

317x572 to 565x769

Summary of Convention Business

64-01 Motion to define the position of Education Director in the APX By-laws. Passed
64-02 Motion to award the APX Silver Medal to Brother Gregory S. Pelley, Anthemos. Passed
64-03 Motion to amend APX By-Laws to assign approval of changes of alumni association by-laws to the WGA. Passed
64-04 Motion to revise the process for awarding the APX Gold Medal. Failed to Pass
64-05 Motion to affirm in APX By-laws the power of chapters to suspend active members. Failed to Pass
64-06 Motion to define a quorum requirement for the National Convention. Out of order

Elections
Joe Henderson (Rabirius) was elected as Worthy Grand Associate Architect.
Jaymon Dark (Apollodorus) was elected as Worthy Grand Estimator.

64-07 Motion to approve the petition to install the Isidorus Chapter. Passed
64-08 Motion in increase alumni dues to $100/year. Out of Order
64-09 Motion directing the fraternity to develop Pledge Education Standards. Passed

George “So” Whitten
Scholastic Achievement Award
Andronicus Chapter, Univ. of Southern California
The logo for the 65th National Convention by Alex Romanos, Rabirius, was the winning entry in the logo design competition.

64th National Convention

at work

and play

Convention President Juan Valdez (PYTH), Secretary Alex Romanos (RABI), and Parliamentarian Veronica Bauman (IKTI) preside during the Grand Council’s report.

Snow play at Minneapolis Sculpture Garden

Photos courtesy of Danielle Likwan

Upcoming Conventions

2012 Jacksonville, Florida
March 22-25

2013 San Antonio, TX

2014 Chicago, Illinois
“I learned that the more one invests in the fraternity, the greater the return – not only for the individual, but also for the fraternity as a whole.” This statement by our John R. Ross Scholarship winner for 2011 applies equally well to each of us. Because of the generous investment by our Brothers, the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation raised the scholarship amount to $2500, helping to generate a record number of applications. From an impressive group of applicants, Erin Cuevas rose to the top. Reacting to winning the scholarship, Erin said “Winning the John R. Ross scholarship is an incredible honor, and honestly I was quite surprised when I found out! I feel so lucky to be recognized among many other talented students and dedicated brothers. I can’t thank the committee enough for this recognition, and inspiration to follow through with my ambitions. I hope that my hard work towards Andronicus has made a difference, and I’m confident that what I’ve learned though my experiences with APX will help me throughout my future career.”

Our winner exemplifies what we hope for in our brothers’ academic success. She currently has a 3.72 gpa, receiving the “Andronicus Outstanding GPA Award” given by Faculty Advisor Doug Noble-every semester. She has received commendations in her design studios, and is accepted into Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society, and Golden Key International Honor Society.

As Worthy Architect last year, she says she was “pushed me to the brink of my abilities as a leader, but by rising to the challenge, the experience gave me an immense opportunity to grow. In many ways my time as WA was a tempering process; the comfort offered by success in one area would become balanced with the stress of failure in another. However, through this interplay between hot and cold I transformed as a person, feeling growth as an improved brother, entrepreneur, and leader.”

The John R. Ross Scholarship recognizes active Brothers who have excelled in academics, fraternal leadership, and service. This year’s winner certainly meets that standard. Her leadership extends beyond Alpha Rho Chi. Serving on the Architecture Student Council at USC School of Architecture, she helped organize several events for prospective students, including exhibits of student work, tours, and scholarship interviews. She is also a mentor in ASC’s Mentor-Mentee system, a program that provides younger students with design critiques and other academic assistance from older classmates.

After a spring study abroad experience in Italy, Erin will be interning in the office of Jean Nouvell in Paris during the summer. Asked how she would use the scholarship, Erin added: “My trips in Europe have been absolutely amazing, however the cost of travel and lodging are quite expensive. This scholarship will be of great help to support my tuition, to offset added costs of studying abroad.”

In addition to her academic work, Erin has another particular interest. Among other dance groups, she is a member of Chaotic 3, the premier hip-hop company on campus. “In addition to architecture school and APX, I am also a very dedicated dancer (mostly hip-hop now, but I used to do jazz, modern, ballet as well). Throughout high school and college, I’ve participated in several dance companies, as well as taught classes at a few studios. Unfortunately, it’s much more difficult for me to pursue this interest now that school is getting more intense, but it has been a love of mine for a very long time. In addition to dancing, I also really enjoy art - I love pencil and ink drawing, painting, collaging... pretty much anything that involves freedom of creativity.”

It’s evident that Erin is on a path of achievement that all Brothers can be proud of. Congratulations to Erin Cuevas, the 2011 John R. Ross Scholarship winner.

Learn more about the APX Foundation

Alpha Rho Chi Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization registered in the State of Illinois

For general information, go to alpharhochi.org/APXF, or find us on LinkedIn or Facebook.

Please feel free to contact our treasurer:

Alpha Rho Chi Foundation
c/o Chuck Nickel, Treasurer
2101 St. James Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45206
513.751.1133 or Charles.Nickel@cbre.com

Checks are payable to “Alpha Rho Chi Foundation”; other payment options are available.
In Memoriam

Kim Steven Clark - Metagenes
Brother Kim Steven Clark, 52, passed away from complications caused by Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma on January 6, 2011. To all members of the Metagenes Chapter, Kim served as a model of Alpha Rho Chi brotherhood. Just as his enthusiasm for baseball led him to start two businesses, he applied his entrepreneurial spirit on behalf of his chapter at Virginia Tech.

After a full day of work in Roanoke, his meetings with the colony pledge educator for the rebuilding Metagenes Colony in 2004–2005. As example of his work on behalf of the chapter, Bro. Clark served as his encyclopedic institutional memory of the chapter. Regularly filling in gaps, spearheading special projects, and yielding advice. However, within the alumni association he shifted offices, becoming a point of support for the chapter, ever ready to lend a hand or to give us a brotherhood. Just as his enthusiasm for baseball led him to start two businesses, he applied his entrepreneurial spirit on behalf of his chapter at Virginia Tech.

As example of his work on behalf of the chapter, Bro. Clark served as pledge educator for the rebuilding Metagenes Colony in 2004–2005. After a full day of work in Roanoke, his meetings with the colony in Blacksburg were timed to coordinate with evening classes he was taking towards his Masters of Public Administration degree at Va. Tech. In 2007, the chapter honored Bro. Clark with the Dwight Palmer “Pop” Ely Award. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie, and daughter, Sarah – both familiar and beloved by the chapter.

Alumni of Metagenes chapter are establishing a scholarship fund in his memory through the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation. For information or to contribute, contact Michele LeTourneur at alumni@metagenes.org.

Michael Lee Ward - Anthemos
Brother Mike Ward, 36, passed away on Dec. 22, 2010. He graduated from University of Illinois in 1996. He is survived by his wife Stephanie Sodke Ward, an Anthemos alumnae.

Gina Yvette Tramble - Andronicus
Bro. Gina Tramble passed away in March 2011 from complications from cancer. She joined the Andronicus Chapter in Fall 1980. Recently an information systems manager for General Mills in California, she kept in contact with the house at USC.

William R. Baker - Anthemos
Brother William R. Baker, 83, passed away on March 7, 2011 at his Lakeview, Illinois home. Baker worked on numerous municipal buildings in Chicago, including the Cook County Administration Court Building. Later in his career, he designed the College of Veterinary Medicine in Champaign.

New Initiates

Based on reports filed with the Grand Council.

Apollodorus - Nov. 20, 2010
Scott Capon
Patrycja Dragan
Josh Evitt
Jorie Frketic
Jade Guzzo
Roxana Hazrati
Monica Hill
Mason Ip
Margarita Palacios
Tim Petersen

Metagenes - Dec. 4, 2010
Bethel Abraham
Tyler Atkins
Rebecca Carle
Ookjay Chung
Justin Dennis
Sidney Gardner
Stephanie Mahoney
Daniel Murrow
Donghyun Naam
Christy Paciocco
Stephen Rosenfelder
Emily Savoca

Andronicus - Dec. 6, 2010
HeeKyung Kwon
Christie YunHwa Lee
Jessica JianJia Leung
Joanna Ma
Paula Melissa Narvaez
Makela Paulette Wilson

Domitian - Dec. 11, 2010
Jeffrey Borges
Shane Byrne
Nicholas Dingman
Kelly Fernandez
Brian Haydon
Thomas Harrison Mundy
Michael Vila

Nicon - December 12, 2010
Jeanne Canto
Anna Drescher
Tristan Gibbs
Hermann Gonzalez
Brandon Martinez
Todd Reed
Yemail Sanchez

Iktinos - January 8, 2011
Tyler Bruens
Zara Gilbert
Sarina Lee
Daniel Marty
Alyse Sabo
Andrew Tehranisa
Colleen Thomas
Rebecca Villegas

Cossutius - January 9, 2011
Vanessa Bento Carvalho
Christine Kim
Ireen Massis
Jason Michael Vereschak

Anthemos - Jan. 14, 2011
Mike W Barkoviak
Jen Bielat
Will F Brennan
Tyler Cunningham
Janeallison P Ng
Aaron B. Palmer
Lauren Elizabeth Sutherland

Diocrates - Jan. 15, 2011
Jessica Fleming
Charlotte Friedley-Brown
Travis Hicks
Christina Hunter
Ryan McCulloch
Sarah Stancik
Cindy To
Jeff Ziemann

Rabirius - January 15, 2011
Alaina Grace Appelbaum
Anna Muir Bergman
Jillian Christine Blakay
Christine Joanne Carlo
Diana Wing Yan Chan
Andrew Patrick Penn
Justin Michael Lightfield
Margo Helene Puette

Satyros - Jan. 16, 2011
Peter Celona
Davis Bauman
Katherine Dabkowski
Angelique King
Dan Schwartz

Cleisthenes - Jan 18, 2011
Lauren Alice Myers
Dina Amer Salem
Eric O Wogbe

Daedalus - January 30, 2011
Michelle Bokeo
Torri Burke
Hao Phung
Kara Richins

Seshait - March 19, 2011
Hewey Devan Carter
Ashley Lauren Cooksey
Alexandria Michelle Davis
Martavis Marcellous Frazier
Tatyana Goddard
Justin Tyrie Guy
Desmond Leron Johnson
Tonesha Monsha Lee
Kelvin Few Lyles
Cierra Michelle Madison
Esther Roger
John H. Geiger - Anthemios
Brother John Geiger, former National Commander of the American Legion, passed away on January 10, 2011 at age 85.

At age 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the 11th Armored Division with a tank battalion. His units served in the Battle of the Bulge and the Army of the Occupation. Following the war, he studied architecture and engineering at the University of Illinois. He served as Worthy Scribe and house manager while in Anthemios Chapter. He graduated in 1950 and soon formed his own firm in Des Plaines, IL. In 1966, he accepted a job with United Airlines and oversaw the building or expansion of United terminals in Los Angeles, Hawaii, and Salt Lake City. He supervised the construction of Helmut Jahn’s 1987 United Terminal 1 at Chicago O’Hare Airport.

Geiger continued to serve his fellow veterans through the American Legion. He led the organization as National Commander for 1971–1972, advocating on behalf of the Veteran’s Administration and for G.I. Bill benefits for Vietnam War veterans.

His surviving family includes his son, Jack Geiger, former president of the Anthemios Alumni Association.

Nicon - April 9, 2011
Francisco J Alonso
Santiago D. Arroyave
Diane L. Ashouri
Daisy M. Nodal
Eneida Pinon
Audrey Reyes
Tiffany Reyes
Kristy Santana
Nicolle Urbano

Rabirius - April 9, 2011
Rebecca L. Doughty
Rachel Elise Filler
Benjamin Samuel Hamilton
Joyce Anne Hanlon
Katherine Elizabeth
Honneywell

Sostratus - April 16, 2011
Sarah Brianne Eystad
Haley Elizabeth Grunhurd
Gee Jin Lee
Ian Jacob McEniry

Pytheos - April 16, 2011
Jesse Alvizar
Kevin Bukowski
Lauren Elizabeth Butts
Brian Duncan
Ariel Peisen

Isidorus - April 30, 2011
Catherine Heitman Berry
Lauren Brill
Abigail Crock
Julie Marie Dalga
Gregory DiRienzo
Jordan Nathan Frazin
Tiffany Fry
Christian Blake Gluvna
Elizabeth Lewis Gray
Jason Michael Hissong
Alexandria Eve Hunt
Stacy Lynne Kotula
Erin Lindquist
Alexandra Elise McCarthey
Shannon McHugh
Meredith Miller
Margaret E. Mueller
Laura J. Murray
Michelle Margaret Parrish
Christopher Pettis
Hannah Pempus
Kristina Michelle Phillips
Matthew James Sadler
Rachel Serfling
Lindsay Suprenant
John Remington Welsh
Erika Cristina Wilcox
Justin Willard
Ziling Yan

APX Expands with New Colonies
In a flurry of interest from schools of architecture from across the country, the fraternity accepted petitions to found three new colonies this year. Following the installation of Isidorus Chapter, APX enters the summer with four colonies.

Washington University at St. Louis – Philon Colony
On February 12, WGE Erin Froschheiser formally installed the Philon Colony in St. Louis. 18 students and the support of Bruce Lindsey, Dean of the College of Architecture, pledged Alpha Rho Chi at the event. Lindsey told the Student Life newspaper, “They’ve been working hard. It’s taken a year, and it’s really to their initiative and interest in developing the program that we were able to make it happen.” Among those attending the event was a large delegation from Anthemios Chapter and Andronicus alumnus Jeff Huestis, the school’s Associate Dean of University Libraries.

University of California, Berkeley
In March, the Grand Council accepted the petition of 34 students to establish a colony at UC Berkeley. A formal pledging ceremony is being planned for August or September. This colony is the first to be able to make a road trip to a chapter via mass transit. A group from the new colony attended Cossutius Chapter’s White Rose banquet on May 6.

Howard University – Hemiunu Colony
In April, the Grand Council accepted a petition of 22 students at Howard University to establish Hemiunu Colony. While a formal pledging ceremony is not planned until fall, National Director Jason Kasparek and former WGAA Brian Swilling personally delivered pledge pins to the new colony. Members of the new colony have also been welcomed guests at Washington, DC alumni gatherings.

Kent State University – Severus Colony
Although many of the colonists were studying abroad this year, the colony added an additional 23 pledges in November 2010. The colony has been working to meet the requirements and are aiming to submit a petition to establish a chapter in the fall.

Daedalus Dohyo
Daedalus Chapter followed a day of conducting tours for Cal Poly’s Open House in April with inflatable Sumo suits for the Friday Night Invite on the UU Plaza with newly admitted students. A big success, the suits were featured in a clip on the local news. The next day, the chapter also sold turns to bash a donated Toyota Tercel with a sledge hammer.